

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 AS-01 /058 R

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P 161913Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY  
USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MARR, JA, KS, KN, TW, CH

SUBJECT: NADAO GROUP MEETS UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

REF: TOKYO 10177

1. SUMMARY. HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP EXPRESSED CONCERN TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB JULY 14 OVER US POLICIES RE ROK, ROC. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB REASSURED GROUP THAT US TROOP WITHDRAWAL CAREFULLY CONSIDERED POLICY WHICH WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED GRADUALLY IN MANNER WHICH WOULD AVOID DISTURBING SECURITY SITUATION ON PENINSULA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULT NATURE OF TAIWAN ISSUE AND STATED THAT US NOT YET DECIDED ON MANNER OF PROCEEDING. END SUMMARY.

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2. CONSERVATIVE LDP SENIOR STATESMAN HIROKICHI NADAO, ACCOMPANIED BY LEGISLATORS FUJIO AND KITAZAWA, MET FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PHILIP C. HABIB ON JULY 14 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER US POLICIES TOWARDS ROK AND ROC.

3. MOST OF DISCUSSION CENTERED ON US GROUND FORCE WITH-

DRAWAL FROM ROK WHICH GROUP OPPOSED. WITH FUJIO ACTING AS SPOKESMAN GROUP STRESSED NEED FOR SERIOUS POLITICAL

EFFORTS WITH MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS TO PREVENT INSTABILITY ON PENINSULA. GROUP ALSO SUGGESTED WE LET NORTH KOREA KNOW OUR SIDE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS KOREAN ISSUE. HABIB NOTED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHED TO STABILITY ON PENINSULA. HE SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL PLAN HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH GOJ AND ROK AND THAT THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE. ROKG AND GOJ FULLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE WITH US PLANS. ROK CONCERN ABOUT US WITHDRAWAL UNDERSTANDABLE AND WAS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED. HE SAID ROK CONCERN SHOULD FADE OVER EXTENDED PERIOD OF WITHDRAWAL AND THAT US WAS CONFIDENT THAT ROK, WITH APPROPRIATE US BACKING, WAS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF. HE EXPLAINED THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CAREFULLY PHASED OVER 4-5 YEAR PERIOD, THAT STRONG AIR FORCE AND SUPPORT COMPONENTS WOULD BE LEFT BEHIND, AND THAT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER STEPS WOULD MAKE UP FOR THE REDUCTION OF US STRENGTH.

4. HABIB REASSURED GROUP THAT US TREATY COMMITMENT TO ROK REMAINED STRONG AND WOULD BE REAFFIRMED. HE SAID THAT MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS DID NOT WANT WAR ON PENINSULA. HE NOTED THAT DPRK COULD BEHAVE IRRATIONALLY, BUT THAT BOTH KOREAS KNEW WAR WOULD MEAN MUTUAL  
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DESTRUCTION. HE NOTED THAT US INTENDED TO MAKE CLEAR TO NK AND ITS ALLIES SERIOUSNESS OF ANY NK ADVENTURISM. HABIB ALSO EXPLAINED THAT US HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO NORTH KOREA AND WOULD REITERATE POSITION BUT WOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT ROK PRESENT. HABIB UNDERLINED THAT JAPAN COULD PLAY IMPORTANT NON-MILITARY ROLE IN HELPING TO ENSURE CONTINUED ROK ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

5. GROUP ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SECRETARY VANCE'S DESCRIPTION OF NORMALIZATION OF PRC TIES AS CENTRAL ELEMENT OF US ASIAN POLICY. NOTING TAIWAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ESPECIALLY ITS EFFORTS AID SE ASIAN LDC'S, GROUP FELT THAT US WOULD LOSE RESPECT AND COOPERATION WITH ASIAN ALLIES IF RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN CUT. HABIB RESPONDED THAT JAPAN HAD FACED SOME OF THESE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WHEN IT NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND HAD MANAGED TO RESOLVE THEM. WHEN ASKED HOW US PLANNED TO PROCEED WITH NORMALIZATION, HABIB REPLIED THAT ISSUE WAS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, AND THAT DECISION OF NEXT STEPS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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